



#089-21

Commonwealth of Virginia
Virginia Department of Education
Superintendent's Memo #089-21

DATE: April 2, 2021
TO: Division Superintendents
FROM: James F. Lane, Ed.D., Superintendent of Public Instruction
SUBJECT: **“Get Skilled, Get a Job, Give Back” Program Established for Low- and Middle-Income Students in Virginia**

On Monday, March 29, 2021, Governor Ralph Northam signed into law the “Get Skilled, Get a Job, Give Back” (or G3) program, codified via House Bill 2204 and Senate Bill 1405, which includes \$36 million to cover tuition, fees, and books and provide wraparound support for eligible students at Virginia’s two-year public institutions.

The Governor’s tuition-free community college initiative targets key industries, including health care, information technology and computer science, manufacturing and skilled trades, public safety, and early childhood education. On average, students in these high-demand degree programs increase their wages by 60 percent upon program completion and double their individual state tax contributions.

The G3 program is one of the first in the nation to provide wraparound financial assistance to help students at the lowest income levels with expenses such as food, transportation, and child care. Students who qualify for a full federal Pell grant and enroll full-time will receive student- support incentive grants on a semester basis. These grants will be in an amount up to \$900 per semester and up to \$450 per summer term. Participating institutions will receive a performance payment for every eligible student receiving a student-support incentive grant

that successfully completes 30 credit hours, and an additional performance payment when the student earns an associate degree.

Initial eligibility for the G3 program is determined through the submission of applications for federal and state student financial aid, including the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA. To address pandemic-related declines in FAFSA completion rates, Governor Northam recently announced a statewide effort to offer free, one-on-one FAFSA advising. From March 22 through June 30, 2021, [Virginia students and families can go online to schedule a virtual meeting](#) with a FAFSA advisor.

For more information

For more information on how to enroll in the G3 program, individuals are encouraged to contact their local community college.

JFL/jgh